

## What happened in the third and final demonstration of Way to Go, Seattle?

- 41 families participated in the Fall 2002 *Way to Go, Seattle! One-Less-Car Study* for 12 weeks. They provided “baseline” information for 3 weeks starting September 3<sup>rd</sup> (where they drove their cars as usual), and then got around with one-less-car for 9 weeks from September 23<sup>rd</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup>.
- A mix of households participated:
  - ✓ Some had high school, driving-age kids, some had little kids, and some had no kids.
  - ✓ Some were couples, some were single people, and several were roommates.
  - ✓ Some were home-owners and some were renters, and household incomes ranged from under \$40,000 to over \$75,000 per year.
  - ✓ Some lived in areas with good transit service and neighborhood stores, others were in neighborhoods that made it more difficult to shop locally.
  - ✓ Some worked in cities outside Seattle, and some worked near where they lived or even in their homes.
- Most of the families found they spent only \$16 a week getting around without their extra car. The participants walked, rode the bus, biked, carpooled, combined errands to reduce the trips they made, took taxis and tried Flexcar.
- Most families saved about \$70 per week, out of the national average of \$85 to own and operate their second car (less the \$16 a week getting around without that second car).
- They all could see they would save money if they didn't own their second car. Of these 41 families, their cost of car ownership ranged from \$15 to \$210 per week (when averaged together the cost per week per family was just a dollar or two under the national average of \$85).
- As of mid-January 2003, 3 participants have already sold their extra car, 10 are thinking about or trying to sell it, 3 are pretty sure they will use it a lot less such as only to go camping in the summer, and 3 plan to replace the car with a more fuel efficient car. 1 had a car break down during the study and became a one-less-car household for real – and they have not replaced it.
- No one gave up and drove their extra car.
- What did they accomplish?
  - ✓ Saved an average of \$70 per week
  - ✓ Improved neighborhood livability and the environment
  - ✓ Reduced driving by 25,000 miles – enough to drive around the planet
  - ✓ Prevented 17,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> (pollutants) from entering the air (enough to fill nine swimming pools)
  - ✓ Reduced trips and miles by combining errands into fewer trips and using other modes (bussing, biking, carpooling, walking) for the same trips – most every household found other ways to do what they wanted rather than simply not making the trip.
- Most families tell us they will continue to change the way they get around and will think about whether they need to drive before they hop in the car. Every family discovered they could still get around without using their ‘extra’ car.
- If every household in Seattle did what the *Way to Go, Seattle!* families did, nearly 16 million miles of automobile traffic would be kept out of our neighborhoods and 7160 tons of carbon dioxide and 357 tons of other pollutants would be kept out of our air **each week!**